

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 11, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego yesterday handed up an indictment charging Jorge Alberto Camacho-Oliverria and Jose Luis Torres-Barajas with alien smuggling violations stemming from a vehicle rollover fatality that took place on August 29, 2008.

According to court documents, after failing to yield to a Border Patrol unit on westbound Interstate-8, the vehicle exited at Dunbar Lane near Pine Valley and proceeded northbound at high speeds before losing control and rolling down an embankment. The victim died at the scene from a severed spinal cord after being ejected from the trunk during the accident.

The indictment alleges that defendant Torres-Barajas guided a group of undocumented aliens through the desert from Mexico into the United States near Tecate, California. After Torres-Barajas brought the aliens to an area near Interstate-8, the indictment further alleges that defendant Camacho-Oliverria picked up and loaded the aliens into his car and ultimately crashed the vehicle minutes later.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Carlos Arguello, who is prosecuting the case, the defendants were previously arraigned on a criminal complaint that charged them with Bringing in Illegal Aliens Without Presentation. The complaint was superseded by the indictment.

The defendants are next scheduled to in court on September 16, 2008 at 9:30 a.m., before Magistrate Judge Louisa S. Porter.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 08cr3061JM

Jorge Alberto Camacho-Oliverria
Jose Luis Torres-Barajas

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

One Count (Both defendants)

Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(i), (a)(1)(A)(v)(II), and (a)(1)(B)(iv)
(Bringing in Illegal Aliens, aiding and abetting, resulting in death)

Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), (a)(1)(A)(v)(II), and (a)(1)(B)(iv)
(Transporting/Moving Illegal Aliens, aiding and abetting, resulting in death)

Six Counts (Both defendants)

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2
(Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain, aiding and abetting)

Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), and (a)(1)(A)(v)(II)
(Transporting/Moving Illegal Aliens, aiding and abetting)

One Count (Jorge Alberto Camacho-Oliverria)

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326(a) & (b) (Deported Alien Found in the United States)

INVESTIGATING AGENCY

United States Border Patrol

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crime charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.